

Testimony of

Lisa Boone

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Before the

Education Committee

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

I would like to speak regarding the COVID BENEFIT ENHANCEMENT. I work for Greenwich Public schools. In August of 2020 I was required to work full-time - everyday for a full day of teaching in person at my middle school. There were plenty of safety measures put in place (masks, staggered changing times, limited seating in large areas, etc), however, this does not diminish the fact that I was working in a building with hundreds of other people and subjecting myself to contracting COVID, which I did in January of 2021. Fortunately I live alone and did not to the best of my knowledge, spread COVID to others in my family, neighbors or friends. The stress of having to go to work each day was considerable and took a definite toll on my well being both physically and mentally. In August of 2020 I was required to teach in person AND remotely at the same time for each class. This was incredibly difficult to manage even though the students in my district were well accustomed to working with a chrome book. Having to engage the students in my classroom and those at home simultaneously was nearly impossible and I was immensely relieved when all students were required to come back to school. It is no wonder that teachers have left the profession. It is time that teachers are treated with the respect that they deserve. By compensating us with a benefit multiplier for the front line work that we did during this worldwide pandemic is a good start.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

